National Highways in J&K

1675. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been released to Jammu and Kashmir Government for maintenance of National Highways in the State;

(b) if so, the amount released; and

(c) the amount utilised so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Rs. 172.44 lakhs has been placed at disposal of Government of Jammu & Kashmir during 2002-03 for maintenance of National Highways and its utilisation by the State Government is Rs. 69.4 lakhs.

Super highway between Kashmir and Kanyakumari

1676. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a super highway connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 4-laning of North-South Corridor, connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari, is a part of National Highway Development Project (NHDP), which is in progress. The North-South Corridor is about 400 km. in length and is scheduled for completion by 2007. Around 531 km. of this Corridor has already been 4-laned.

(c) No separate funds have been allocated for North-South Corridor. The estimated cost of this component would be about Rs. 18,000 crores.